

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A blank for fabricating a carton which is formed from a generally rectangular sheet of material comprising:

the blank divided by a plurality of longitudinal fold-forming creases into a plurality of generally rectangular sections, which sections are laterally offset relative to one another;

the blank sections generally configured as a base-forming panel hinged to one of a pair of opposing side-forming panels which flank a top-forming panel and to a lip-forming panel;

the base-forming panel including a pair of opposing end-forming panels hinged to the base-forming panel by fold-forming creases for movement relative to the base-forming panel;

a plurality of corner lock-forming portions, each defined in cooperatively adjacent top-forming panels and side-forming panels adjacent an end of the blank by a transverse cut line intersecting the longitudinal fold-forming crease and extending between adjacent top-forming and side-forming panels; and

a pair of opposed handle-forming portions, each defined in cooperatively adjacent top-forming and side-forming panels by a fold-forming crease disposed in the top-forming panel parallel to and offset from the longitudinal fold-forming creases and a cut line connecting opposed ends of the handle fold-forming crease.

2. The blank as defined in claim 1, wherein an aperture is defined in each handle-forming portion to facilitate carrying.

3. The blank as defined in claim 1, wherein one of the handle-forming portions includes a locking flap defined therein by a cut line and hinged to the handle-forming portion by a fold-forming crease such that movement of the locking flap into engagement with an aperture defined in another handle-forming portion connects the handle-forming portions to facilitate carrying.

4. The blank as defined in claim 1, wherein the blank is transversely bisected by a segmented cut line normal to each longitudinal fold-forming crease.

5. The blank as defined in claim 1, wherein the end-forming panels move rotationally in the same direction.

6. The blank as defined in claim 1, wherein the end-forming panels move rotationally in opposite directions.

7. A carton formed from a cut and creased blank of foldable sheet material, which carton comprises, in set-up condition:

a base panel hinged at opposed longitudinal edges to a lip and one of a pair of opposing side panels which flank a top panel such that the side panel hinged to the top panel remote from the base panel overlaps and connects to the lip to define a tubular element;

the base panel further including a pair of opposing end panels, each hinged to the base panel and movable from a first operative position to a second operative position;

a plurality of corner locks, each defined by a transverse cut line adjacent the end panels, extending across a longitudinal edge between adjacent top and side panels, such that each corner lock may be inversely disposed relative to the top and side panels to which the respective corner lock is connected in order to orient each adjacent end panel in the second operative position; and

a pair of opposing handles movable from a first operative position for stacking to a second operative position for carrying.

8. The carton as defined in claim 7, wherein the handles include a lock configured as a flap in one of the handles for engaging an aperture defined in the opposing handle.

9. The carton as defined in claim 7, wherein one end panel extends from a first end of the base panel and another panel is defined within the base panel having a hinge line adjacent a second end of the base panel such that the end panels move rotationally in the same direction from the first operative position to the second operative position.

10. The carton as defined in claim 7, wherein one end panel extends from a first end of the base panel and another end panel extends from a second end of the base panel, such that the end panels move rotationally in opposite directions from the first operative position to the second operative position.

11. A container for foodstuffs comprising:

a carton formed from a cut and creased blank of foldable sheet material, which carton comprises, in set-up condition,

a base panel hinged at opposed longitudinal edges to a lip and one of a pair of opposing side panels which flank a top panel such that the side panel hinged to the top panel remote from the base panel overlaps and connects to the lip to define a tubular element;

the base panel further including a pair of opposing end panels, each hinged to the base panel and movable from a first operative position to a second operative position;

a plurality of corner locks, each defined by a transverse cut line adjacent the end panels extending across a longitudinal edge between adjacent top and side panels, such that each corner lock may be inversely disposed relative to the top and side panels to which the respective corner lock is connected in order to orient such adjacent end panel in the second operative position; and

a pair of opposing handles movable from a first operative position for stacking to a second operative position for carrying;

a tray formed from a cut and creased blank of foldable sheet material including a base panel and opposing side panels hinged to the base panel at laterally spaced longitudinal edges; and

a pad formed from a cut and creased blank of foldable sheet material including a base panel and opposing end panels hinged to the base panel at longitudinally spaced lateral edges.

12. The container as defined in claim 11, wherein the carton, tray and pad are transversely bisected by a segmented cut line normal to each longitudinal edge such that the container may be separated into like first and second containers.

13. The container as defined in claim 12, wherein the first and second containers each include one end panel extending from a first end of the base panel and another end panel defined within the base panel having a hinge line adjacent a second end of the base panel such that the end panels move rotationally in the same direction from the first operative position to the second operative position.